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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/146,851 09/03/98 MCQUEEN

M 3522US (97-10

EXAMINER

MM92/0705

JOSEPH A. WALKOWSKI
TRASK BRITT & ROSSA
POST OFFICE BOX 2550
SALT LAKE CITY UT 84110

FENTY, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2815

DATE MAILED:
07/05/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/146,851

Applicant(s)

MCQUEEN, MARK

Examiner

Jesse A Fenty

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6,9,10,19,21-24,27 and 28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6,9,10,19,21-24,27 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 13.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. The request filed on 04/18/01 for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 35 USC 132(b) is acceptable. An action on the RCE follows.

Title

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive and contains method language. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 10, 19, 21-24, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Joshi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,955,781).

In re claims 1, 3, 19 and 21, Joshi (Fig. 8) discloses a semiconductor device comprising:

A structure comprising a substrate (210) having at least one thick field oxide area (222), and at least one active area including at least one implanted drain region (232), and at least one implanted source region (230), said intermediate structure further including at least one transistor

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gate member (238) spanned between said at least one implanted drain region and said at least one implanted source region on said at least one active area;

A first barrier layer (244);

At least one single drain and source contact plugs (206);

At least one drain and source individual contact lands (242) of wider width than the contact plug and substantially planar;

A second barrier layer disposed over said first barrier layer; and

At least one upper source and drain contact (248) extending through second barrier layer.

In re claims 4 and 22, Joshi discloses the devices of claims 3 and 21 respectively, further comprising drain and source contact metallization (248) in electrical communication with said upper drain and source contacts.

In re claims 5, 6, 9, 10, 23, 24, 27 and 28, Joshi discloses the devices of claims 3 and 21 respectively, wherein the contact plugs, contact lands and upper contact lands extend between at least two drain and source regions below them.

The preamble to claims 3 and 21 describing the device being used for the dissipation of electrostatic discharges is a statement of the intended use of the device and is not given patentable weight. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963). In this

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case, the structure of Nakamura et al. is identical to that of the claimed invention and it is an apparent that said structure could be used in the same manner as that of the claimed invention.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-6, 9, 10, 19, 21-24, 27 and 28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lou (U.S. Patent No. 6,211,569) discloses interconnection lines for a semiconductor substrate and Huang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,084,304) discloses a layered metallization structure for a FET device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jesse A Fenty whose telephone number is 703-308-8137. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie Lee can be reached on 703-308-1690. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

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Jesse A Fenty
Examiner
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JAF
June 28, 2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eddie Lee', with a large, sweeping initial 'E'.

EDDIE LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800